38. Podiceps dominicus (Linn.).
Lake of Dueñas, October 13th, 1859.

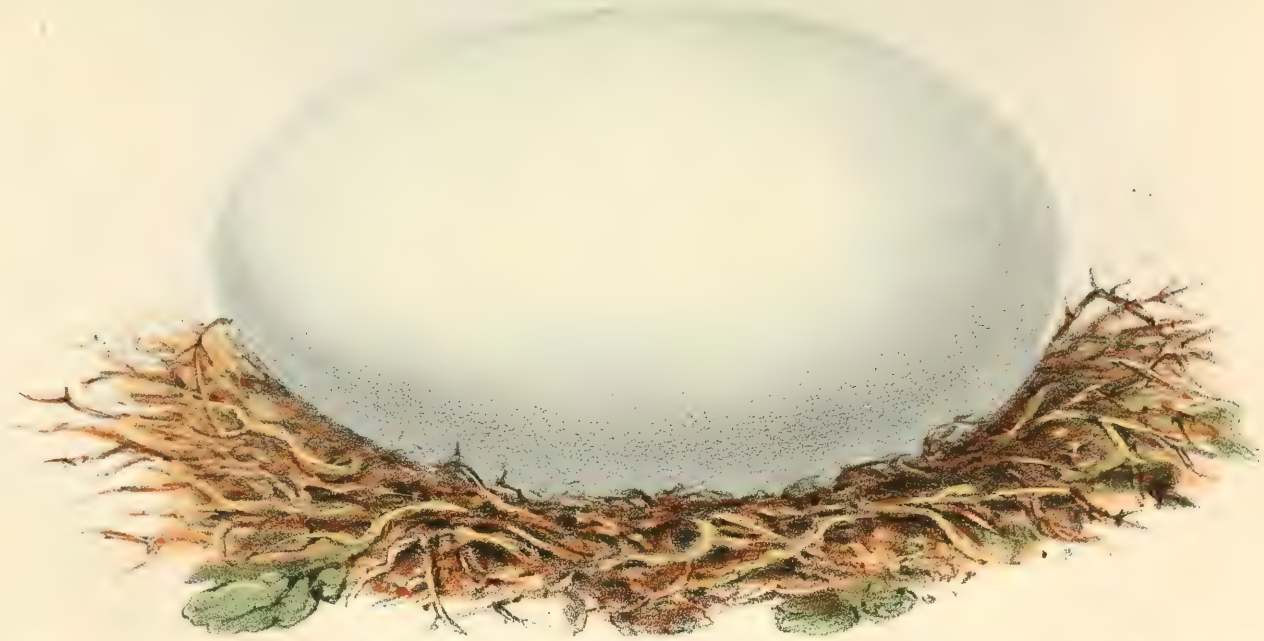
39. Sterna frenata, Gambel : Baird, Rep. p. 864.
This skin I bought in Coban, and am not sure where it was procured.

XXXIV.—*Note on the Egg and Nestling of the Californian Vulture.* By Philip Lutley Sclater.

(Plates VIII. and IX.)

Mr. J. H. Gurney has kindly supplied, for the use of this Journal, the two accompanying plates, which represent the nestling and egg of the Californian Vulture (*Cathartes californianus*). They are copied from drawings (made by Mr. Reeve of the Norwich Museum) of the specimens (forwarded to Mr. Gurney by his correspondent, Mr. A. S. Taylor, of Monterey), which have already been alluded to in these pages*. The circumstances of the discovery of the two nests, one of which contained the young bird, supposed to be about from five to seven days old (Plate VIII.), and the other the egg (Plate IX.), having been already given, as also a sufficient description of the specimens, it is not necessary to repeat them. But it may be as well to remark, that in Dr. Brewer's valuable work on 'North American Oology' (p. 7), the egg of the Californian Vulture is described, from a drawing of a specimen said to have been laid in confinement at the Jardin des Plantes, as somewhat different from the one represented here. The dimensions there given ($3\frac{1}{16}$ by $2\frac{1}{16}$) would indicate a considerably smaller egg than the present specimen. The ring of reddish-brown blotches in the egg of the Jardin des Plantes is perhaps of less significance, as many of the *Vulturidæ* lay sometimes spotted and sometimes colourless eggs (see Mr. Salvin's remarks on the eggs of *Gyps fulvus* in this Journal for last year, p. 179). But it is certainly a reversal of what is generally the case, to find a white egg laid by a Vulture in a wild state, and a coloured egg laid by a bird in confinement; and, on the whole, it would be well not to place too much confidence in the drawing spoken of by Dr. Brewer.

* See 'Ibis,' 1859, p. 469.



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FIG. OF CATHARTES AURA PLATE



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CATHARTES CALIFORNIANUS, juv.